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CDC ISSUES GUIDANCE FOR MANAGING OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO ZIKA VIRUS FOR HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL

At Issue:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued an important [“Interim Guidance for Managing Occupational Exposures to Zika Virus for Healthcare Personnel”](#) on its website. The document provides guidance for facilities to determine when health care personnel should be tested for Zika virus infection following an occupational exposure and recommendations for post-exposure management.

The CDC recommends all health care personnel adhere to standard precautions for all patient care activities in order to prevent occupationally-acquired infections and reduce the possibility of spreading infectious diseases, including Zika virus, in health care settings. Employers are reminded that they must comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogens standard or similar OSHA State Plan standards, whenever employees have occupational exposure to blood, body fluids or other potentially infectious materials. More specific to Zika, the guidance describes how to evaluate and manage health care personnel with possible occupational exposure to the Zika virus, including initial management, assessment of the exposure incident and determination of the need for Zika virus testing, clinical management, counseling and laboratory testing. It also discusses how to manage health care personnel who develop Zika virus infection following an occupational exposure, and notes that work restrictions are not generally required. The recommendations in this document will be updated as new information becomes available.

CDC continues to evaluate cases of Zika in the U.S. and U.S. territories and updates guidance as new information becomes available. For more information, visit [CDC's Zika website](#). CDC also offers a 24/7 Zika hotline, at (770) 488-7100, that can provide rapid access to CDC clinical experts, as well as a dedicated email address for pregnancy-related Zika questions at zikamch@cdc.gov.

What You Can Do:

The AHA will continue to share updates from CDC and other agencies as they become available. Other Zika resources can be found on [CDC's Zika webpage](#) for health care providers. We will continue to share these updates via email and post new materials to www.aha.org/zika. Watch *AHA News Now* for the latest information.

Further Questions:

Please contact Roslyne Schulman, AHA director of policy, at rschulman@aha.org.